

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants representative wishes to thank Examiner Kerr for her courteous explanations with respect to the amendments required in regards to the pending claims. Claims 1-10 and 12-30 were pending in the application. Claims 18, 19, 20, and 29 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled claims in this or other continuing applications. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 23-25 are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 12, and 14, have been amended. Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-10, 12-17, 23-25, and 30 will be pending and under active consideration. Claims 1 and 25 are independent.

In response to the Office Action entitled "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121" dated November 5, 2004 (Paper No. 27), and in further response to the Response filed on December 1, 2004 (Paper No. 28), Applicants respectfully submit that the inadvertent errors with respect to the claim amendments have been corrected herein. In particular, the matter being deleted from the claims has been indicated by strikethrough. Claim status identifiers required for each of the pending claims have been corrected herein. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have also clarified the status of canceled Claims 18, 19, 20, and 29 by not reproducing the text of each of the canceled claims. In addition, the Examiner had indicated that Claim 10 was not original Claim 10. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 10 had been inadvertently misentered. Applicants have corrected this inadvertent error and have provided the correct text of Claim 10 as originally filed.

Finally, in accordance with the Revised Amendment Practice under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121, Applicants have now properly amended Claims 1, 3, and 14 as they had intended to do on January 29, 2003. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to point out more particularly and claim more distinctly that which Applicant regards as his invention by omitting reference to the

term wasting disease and incorporating the limitations of canceled Claim 29. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 may be found in original Claim 29 and at page 14, lines 5-6, of the specification as filed and, thus, does not represent new matter. Claim 1 has additionally been amended to omit reference to the terms “sepsis” and “HIV infection”. Claim 3 has been amended herein to remove reference to the phrase “or combinations thereof.” Claim 3 has additionally been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regards as his invention by now reciting Met³⁵⁸ variants. Applicants submit respectfully that the recitation of Met³⁵⁸ variants finds support at page 5, lines 17-30 of the specification as filed and, thus, does not represent new matter. Claim 14 has been amended herein to correct an inadvertent recitation of 200 uM and to recite instead 2000 uM. Applicants submit respectfully that the recitation of “at least .5 mM and no greater than 2000 mM” found in Claim 14, as amended, finds support at page 7, line 24 of the specification as filed and, thus, does not represent new matter.

Accordingly, to be fully responsive under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(h), Applicants have provided herewith the required entire “Amendments to the Claims” Section of the Response filed on January 23, 2004 (Paper No. 20). This document provides the full set pending Claims, Claims 1-10, 12-18, 23-25, and 30. The document also provides the claim status identifier required for each claim. This set of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Applicants respectfully request entry remarks made herein into the file history of the present invention.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilberto M. Villacorta", is written over a horizontal line.

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